ストライクウィッチーズ零
1937扶桑海事変

第二話
起動機縁

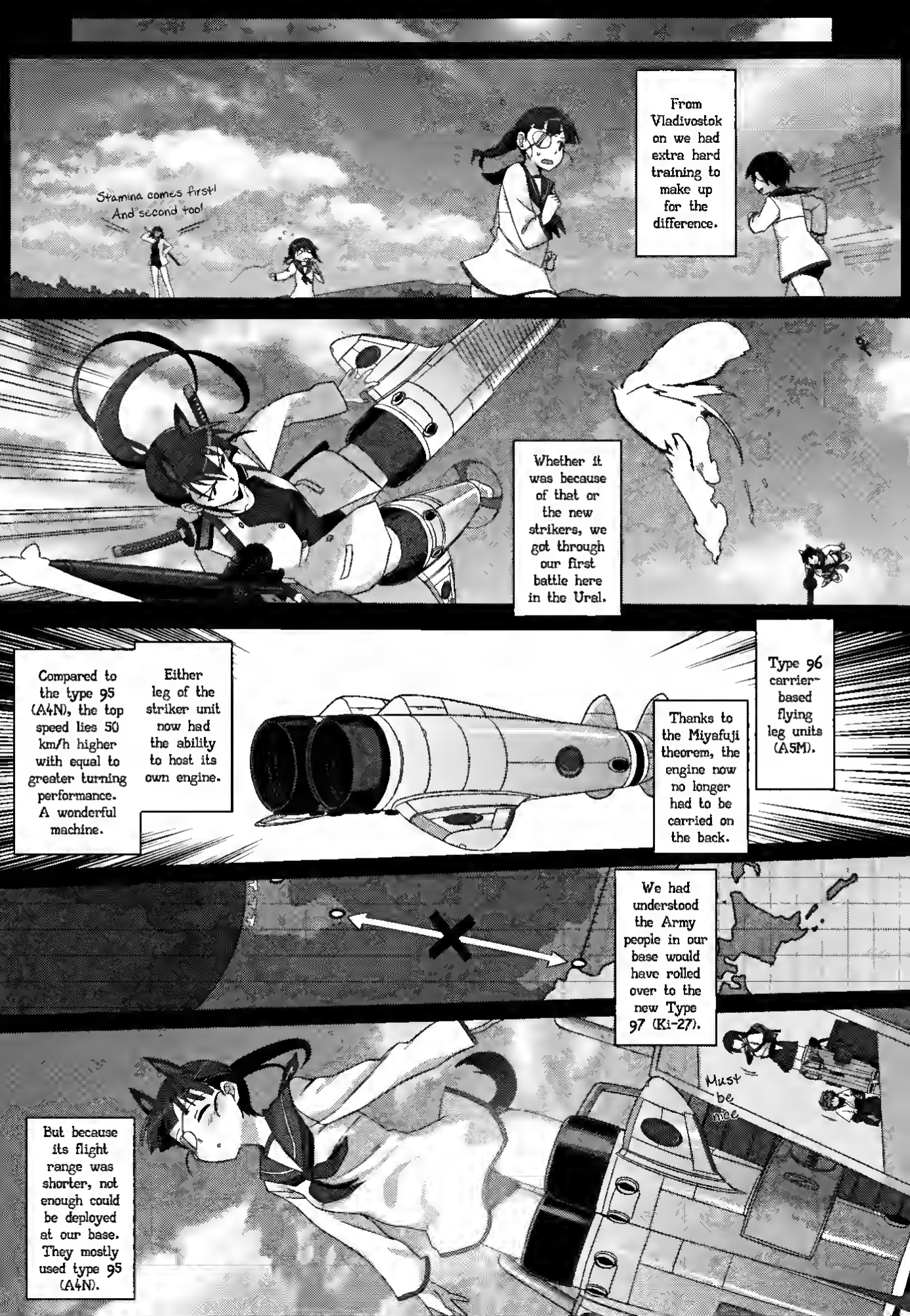
STRIKE WITCHES ZERO 1937 SEA OF FUSO INCIDENT
#02 The beginning

A.D. 1937, July 11.
Witch squads from carriers Houshou and Amagi equipped with leg units Type 96 (A5M) moved out in response to the news from Maizuru.
War had dawned on Fuso.
Vladivostok
Desolated Areas
Fuso Sea
Pacific Ocean
Fuso Empire
Maizuru
We had just become witches, but, under Kitagou-sensei, we were still sent out.
Our orders were to defend the Ural region.
BOOOM
In Ural in a nameless Fuso forward base...
WHOOSH

Hey, did you hear?
Those Navy girls joining us...
Yeah.
There was a report about it. The 12th flight squadron of that one famous unit from Maizuru is arriving.
Eeh...
You mean...?
If the rumors are true...
This will get interesting!

HA
HA
This place is so huge
HA
HA
Hmph
I can see the horizon.
Uwaah! Even Kurita's airport is huge!
It's indeed ridiculously big.
Now...
We'll be flying together with army veterans. Get along with them.
We had defeated a flying Neuroi in Maizuru and that built people's confidence in us.
We were treated as a virtual elite squad, equipped with the latest striker units even though most of us were still very new.
Sure, sure.
YES!
WAAH!
Hm?
Now, the Army's commander was...
RUN

Pilot Officer Anabuki Tomoko of Fuso Army's first flight squadron.
You guys are that famous flight squadron from Maizuru, right?!
AAAH!
HEY!
!!!
GRAB
Pilot Officer Kuroe Ayaka of the Fuso Army first flight squadron.
You guys are young! How old are you? What food do you like? Do you prefer Fuso tea or black tea?
Why the eye patch? Is it in style?
How did you beat them? What weapons?
Waah!
Ah... Uhm...
Pilot Officer Katou Keiko of Fuso Army's first flight squadron.
I heard it's just been used for diversions.
What are flying Neuroi like? What color? What shape?
What rank are you? The Navy is all on new strikers, right? That's nice.
Pilot Officer Katou Takeko of the Fuso Army first flight squadron.
Branch, rank, flight hours.
Please give me your info.
Haah
Sorry about that.
Geez... What's with you guys.
Is about 10 hours.
My flying time...
My rank is Flight Petty Officer, 1st Class.
Uhm... I'm Mio Sakamoto. Navy's 12th flight squadron, Kitagou's group.
TEN HOURS?!
Eh?!
Ten!


Stamina comes first!
And second too!
From Vladivostok on we had extra hard training to make up for the difference.
Whether it was because of that or the new strikers, we got through our first battle here in the Ural.
Type 96 carrier-based flying leg units (A5M).
Thanks to the Miyafuji theorem, the engine now no longer had to be carried on the back.
Either leg of the striker unit now had the ability to host its own engine.
Compared to the type 95 (A4N), the top speed lies 50 km/h higher with equal to greater turning performance. A wonderful machine.
We had understood the Army people in our base would have rolled over to the new Type 97 (Ki-27).
Must be mee
But because its flight range was shorter, not enough could be deployed at our base. They mostly used type 95 (A4N).

If only we had enough in reserve.
Probably won't see it again for a few weeks.
Damn... Again under repair?
And we later heard there weren't that many in production to supply all bases fully in the first place. It was a cause of some distress.
Even if they send the broken ones back, we have spares.
But sheerly by number, our situation was a lot better.
Although our Type 96 (ASM) had various problems too.
Yikes! I can't land!
What a waste of ole.
Ahh... Another one.
Meanwhile, these kinds of things happened.
Rang Rang Kla-Bang!

...And that's how it is...
Why this?
...
Wing Commander Etou Toshiko, Fuso Army first flight squadron.

I get what you're saying.
It's understandable that you're worried, since we're joining forces.
You're right, our squad's witches are new.
CREAK
Okay...
I get it...

That would really help us out.
So... How about we do training that smoothens our cooperation?

Yes!!
Haah...

The rules are simple!
Use any equipment and down the opposing commander!
The mock battle starts when you're on the same height and have flown past each other!
Roger!
It begins!
The turning rates are about equal.
But with superior speed, they'll use hit-and-run tactics.
It's a good tactic with the Type 96 (A5M).
But...
Ordinary tricks won't work on our girls.
Fumika!

Nod
Look carefully.
Got it?
Shoot when you start pulling up!
Yay! She got behind her.
Nope.

THIS IS IT!
NOW!
tak tak tak
But the Type 96's dives are faster, so you take longer to regain altitude.
GR
Before moving to the attack position, you guys maintain a higher altitude.
EN
ATK
GR
Now she'll predict the enemy's speed after getting on top...
To stay above them in the right position as accurately as threading a needle!
This is why...
In a dogfight, even with the older type 95's our girls won't lose!

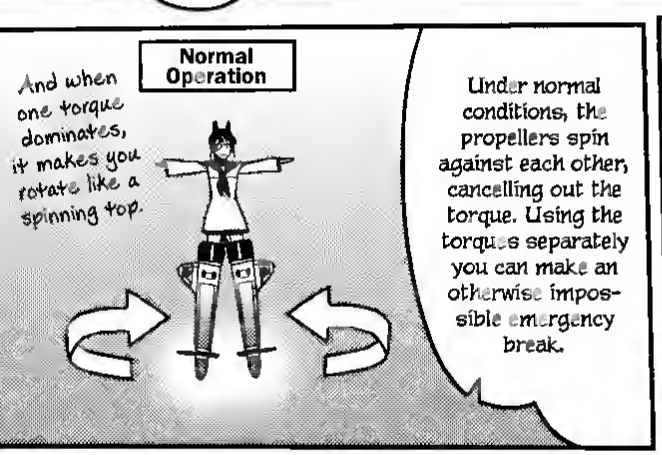
rattle
rattle
tak
tak
WHEEL
WHEEL
BANG
WAAH!
GAH!
Darn! She's got me!
MIO!
Engine trouble at a time like this!
Don't hold this against me!
No, it can't be...!

HAA AAH!
WHA— ?!
A swallow turn?!
TAK TAK

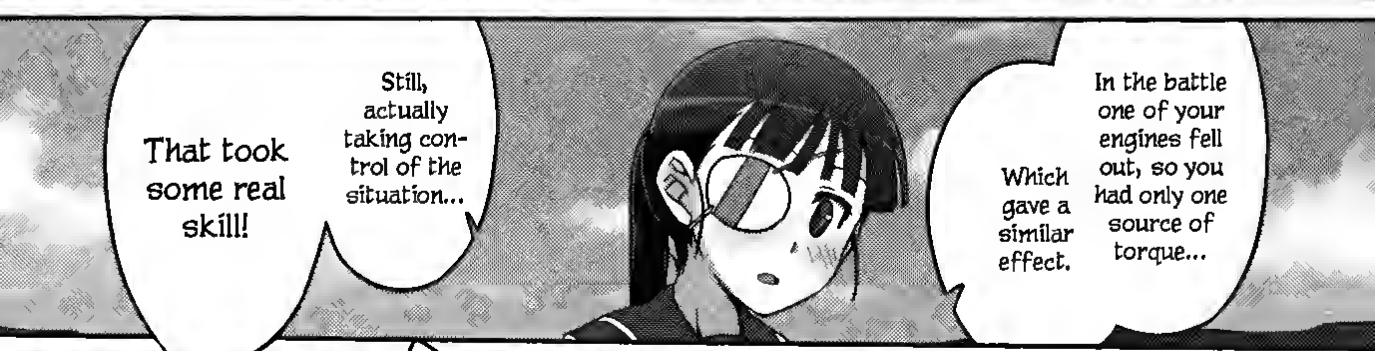
Wow, that was close.
Ha ha ha!
A loss is a loss.
Well, regardless how it happened...
Haa...
Yep, yep.
They're not the famous Maizuru squad for nothing.
Losing to a 10 hour rookie. Sigh...
So battle experience is what really counts?
Ah... Uhm...
There goes my confidence.
It's incredible she recovered from that position.
Depressed
I thought only commanders like Toshiko could...
Who would've thought she knew how to swallow turn...?
Haa...
I was completely caught off guard...
Good to have you.
pat
pat
You showed me something valuable.
Well...

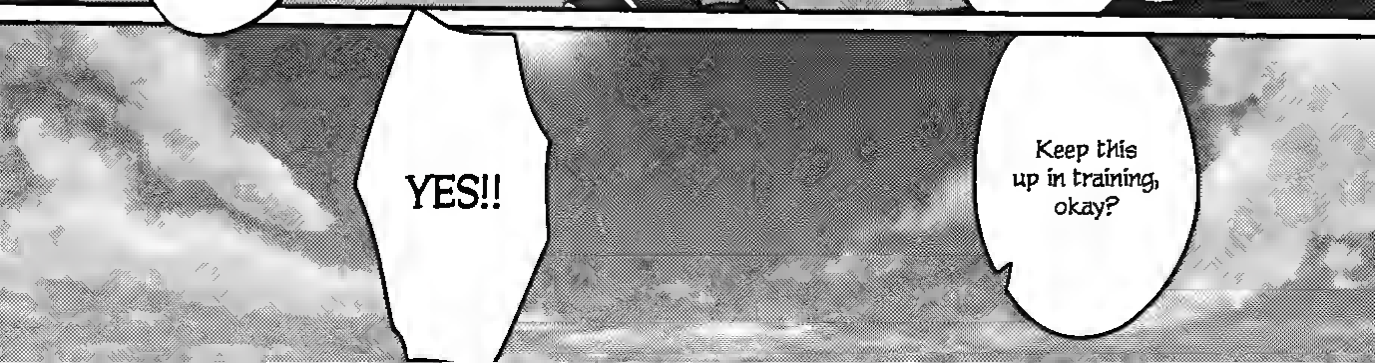
Eh? Me too?!
Yes...
Your training is increased tenfold!
For gosh's How can you get in a mood and lose?!

What's a swallow turn?
Hm?
Sensei...


Normal Operation
And when one torque dominates, it makes you rotate like a spinning top.
Under normal conditions, the propellers spin against each other, cancelling out the torque. Using the torques separately you can make an otherwise impossible emergency break.

In the navy we call it a full spin and the army calls it a swallow turn.
It's that maneuver you performed.
Aah.


That took some real skill!
Still, actually taking control of the situation...
Which gave a similar effect.
In the battle one of your engines fell out, so you had only one source of torque...


YES!!
Keep this up in training, okay?

Ahh...
It was close.
We almost downed their commander.
Sorry...
GH!
Wa ha ha ha!
What are you saying?
If you're a Fuso soldier...
Surely you've heard the rumors of the god of war?
WAHAHAHA
The genius, inventor of new air battle tactics and dogfighting techniques, to say nothing of her own combat skill. She was also an officer in Europe.
HA HA HA HA
Their commander, Kitagou Fumika, is that god of war.
So, newbies like you...
She was taking it easy not using those katana.
No matter how many you're with, you're no match.
Though if I joined, maybe a little.
...Eh?!
Yeah, that was a good answer.
EEEEH?!!

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STRIKE WITCHES ZERO 1937 SEA OF FUSO INCIDENT
The end of #02

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ストライクウィッチーズ
STRIKEWITCHES
1937 六条雪美
CHAPTER 1 THE BEGINNING